	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	09/728,356	LYNCH, GERARD ALAN
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sana Al-Hashemi	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the amendment filed 5/24/06.*

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *28-34, and 41-67, as renumbered 1-31.*

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the

            International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

        Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ~~01/04~~ 12/21/05, 5/23/06

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

Sana Al-Hashemi

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is issued in response to applicant's RCE filed 12/21/05.

2.   Claims 28-34, and 41-63 were amended. Claims 64-67 were added. Claims 1-27, and 35-

40 were canceled.

3.   Claims 28-34, and 41-67 are renumbered 1-31 are allowed.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex*

Parte Quayle, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible

for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been

timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on 12/21/05 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

5.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 12/21/05, and 5/23/06 was filed

after the mailing date of the notice of allowance on 9/29/05. The submission is in compliance

provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being

considered by the examiner.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Anthony B. Diepenbrock on May 25, 2006.

Claims 1-27, 35-40, have been canceled.

Claims 28-34, and 41-63 have been amended

Claims 64-67 were added.

Please replace Claims 28-34 and 41-63, with the following:

28. (Currently Amended) A method of presenting to a user on an auction site one or more

action items related to a linking auction item, comprising:

encoding search information for one or more related auction items available by a seller;

embedding the encoded search information into a pointer to a facilitating server, the

linking auction item and the one or more related auction items being available by the same seller,

wherein an auction item is an item available on an auction site;

embedding said pointer in an item description of the linking auction item;

upon selection of the linking auction item at the auction site by a user, receiving the

encoded search information embedded in the pointer to the facilitating server;

automatically decoding the encoded search information embedded in said pointer into a

keyword; and

invoking a search engine of the auction site with the keyword as a search parameter to

find and present to the user item documents for the one or more related auction items.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for representing, as recited in claim 28, wherein the

facilitating server is associated with an auxiliary site accessible on [the Internet] a computer

network.

30. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 28, wherein the

facilitating server is associated with the auction site.

31. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 28, wherein the

encoded search information is ASCII-coded.

32. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, to a user on an auction site one or

more auction items related to a linking auction items related to a linking auction item,

comprising:

embedding an HTML tag into a document on the auction site, the auction site document

describing the linking auction item available by the seller, and the linking auction item and the

one or more related auction items having [a common] the same seller, wherein an auction item is

an item available on the auction site;

upon selection of the linking item at the auction site by a user, receiving and interpreting

the embedded HTML tag;

causing in response to the interpreted HTML tag, the user to be presented with an in-line

frame and a list of keywords displaying therein, the keywords obtained from a facilitating server;

receiving a selection by the user of one of the keywords in the list; and

in response to the selection, invoking a search engine of the auction sire using te selected

keyword as a search parameter to find and represent to the user item documents for the one or

more related auction items.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 32, wherein the

facilitating server is associated with an auxiliary site accessible on [the Internet] a computer

network.

34. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 32, wherein the

facilitating server is associated with the auction site.

Claims 35-40 are canceled.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of presenting to a user on an auction site one or more

auction items related to a linking auction item, comprising:

encrypting search information foe the one or more related auction items available by a

seller;

embedding the encrypted search information for the one or more related auction items

into a pointer to facilitating server, the linking auction item and the one or more related auction

items being items available by the same seller, <u>wherein an auction item is an item available in an auction site</u>;

embedding said pointer in an item description of the linking auction item;

upon selection of the linking item at the auction site by a user, receiving the encrypted search information embedded in the pointer to the facilitating server;

automatically decrypting the encrypted search information embedded in said pointer into item description information of the one or more related auction items; and

invoking a search engine of the auction sire with the description information as search parameter to find and present to the user item documents for the one or more related auction items.

42. (currently Amended) A method of presenting to a user on an auction site one or more auction items related to a linking auction item <u>available by a seller</u>, comprising:

forming a delimited keyword by separating one or more characters of a keyword by one or more delimiters;

embedding the delimited keyword into a pointer to a facilitating server, wherein the linking auction item and the one or more related auction items are items available by the same seller <u>and wherein an auction item is an item available on an auction site</u>;

embedding said pointer in an description of the linking auction item, wherein the delimited keyword prevents a search engine of the auction site from finding the keyword in the item description when a search at the auction site is conducted;

upon selection of the linking auction item by the user at the auction site, receiving the delimited keyword at the facilitating server;

automatically removing any delimited from the delimited keyword to recover the

keyword; and

invoking a search engine of the auction sire with the recovered keyword as a search

parameter to find and present to the user item documents for the one or more related auction

items.

43. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 42, wherein the

facilitating server is associated the auction site.

44. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 42, wherein the

facilitating server is associated with an auxiliary site accessible on [the Internet] a computer

network.

45. (Currently amended) A method of presenting to a user on an auction site one or more

auction items related to a linking auction item available by a seller, comprising:

embedding one or more keywords relating to one or more related auction items into a

linking auction item's description, wherein the linking auction item and the one or more related

auction items are items available by the same seller and wherein an auction item is item available

on an auction site;

inserting said one or more keywords into a table residing in a facilitating server and

configured for storing keywords, wherein said table includes an associative link between each of

said one or more keywords in the table and one or more auction items at the auction site;

upon finding the linking action item at the auction site by a user, retrieving the table of

keywords from the facilitating server;

presenting to the user the keywords in the table along with description data of the linking

auction item; and

upon selection of one of the displayed keywords by the user, invoking a search engine of

the auction site with the keyword as a search parameter to find and present to the user item

documents for the one or more related auction items.

46. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 45, wherein the

facilitating server is associated with the auction site.

47. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 45, wherein the

facilitating server is associated with an auxiliary site accessible on [the Internet] a computer

network.

48. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting to a user on an auction site one or

more auction items related to a linking auction item, comprising:

embedding one or more keywords into a protected area of a document describing a

linking auction item available by a seller, wherein the linking auction item and the one or more

related auction items are items available by the same seller, and wherein an auction item is an

item available on an auction site, a search engine at the auction site is configured to ignore

information in the protected area;

inserting said one or more keywords into a table residing in a facilitating server and

configured for storing keywords;

upon finding the linking auction item at the auction site by the user, retrieving the table of

keywords stored on the facilitating server;

presenting to the user the keywords in the table along with the description data of the

linking auction item; and

upon selection of one of the displayed keywords by the user at the auction site, invoking

a search engine of the auction site with the keyword as a search parameter to find and present to

the user item documents for the one or more related auction items.

49. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 48, wherein the

facilitating server is associated with the auction site.

50. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 48, wherein the

facilitating server is associated with an auxiliary site accessible on [the Internet] a computer

network.

51. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting to a user on an auction site one or

more auction items related to a linking auction item, comprising:

embedding a pointer in an item description of a linking auction item available by a seller,

the item description when accessed at the auction site causing an access to a facilitating server by

means of the embedded pointer, the linking auction item and the one or more related auction

items being items available by the same seller, wherein an auction item is an item available on an

auction site;

upon accessing the item description having the embedded pointer, obtaining at the

facilitating server a list of item descriptions and item numbers that represent the currently active

auction [s] items of the same seller; and

presenting to the user the list of the seller's currently active auction items.

52. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 51, further comprising, upon selection of the linking auction item at the auction site by a user, generating a pop-up window to the user; and

wherein the list of currently active auction items of the seller is presented in the pop-up window.

53. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 52, wherein the pop-up window is displayed over a Web page containing the item description from the auction site.

54. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 51, wherein the list is automatically updated by the facilitating server to show only the currently active auctions.

55. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 51, wherein the facilitating server is associated with the auction site.

56. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 51, wherein the facilitating server is associated with an auxiliary site accessible on the [Internet] a computer network.

57. (Previously presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 5 1, wherein the list obtained from the facilitating server includes keywords relating to the one or more related items.

58. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 51, further comprising, upon selection by the user at the auction site of one of the items in the presented list, invoking a search engine of the auction site to find and present to the user an item document for the selected item.

59. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 51, wherein the pointer is a URL.

60. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 51, wherein the step of obtaining a list of item descriptions and item numbers is performed by the facilitating server executing the code residing at the facilitating server.

61. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 51, wherein the item description of the linking item includes embedded executable code; and

wherein the step of obtaining a list of item descriptions and item numbers is performed by the facilitating server executing the code embedded in the linking item description.

62. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 61, wherein the executable code is Java code.

63. (Previously Presented) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 61, wherein the executable code is Java Script.

64. (New) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 29, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

65. (New) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 33, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

66. (New) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 39, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

67. (New) A method of presenting, as recited in claim 44, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

Allowable Subject Matter

6.   Claims 28-34, 41-67 allowed over the prior art of record.

7.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding Independent Claims 28, 32, 41, 42, 45, 48, and 51, the prior art fails to

discloses or suggest the claimed provision of A method of presenting to a user on an auction site

one or more auction items related to a linking auction item, by encoding search information for

one or more related auction items, embedding the encoded search information into a pointer to a

facilitating server, the linking auction item and the one or more related auction items being items

available by the same seller, and embedding said pointer in an item description of the linking

auction item, in conjunction with remaining claims provisions.

8.   The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and

enabled by the Specification are also allowed.

Comments

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee

have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the

corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6)

MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS

beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be

timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons

for Allowance."

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicant's response must either comply

with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37

CRF 1.111(b) and MPEP section 707.07(a).

Other Prior Art Made of Record

1. Walker et al. (US Patent No. 6,240,396) discloses a conditional purchase offer management

system for event tickets.

2. Walker et al. (US Patent No. 5,794,207) discloses a method and apparatus for a

cryptographically assisted commercial network system designed to facilitate buyer-driven

conditional purchase offers.

3. Herman et al. (US Patent No. 6,178,308) disclose smart electronic receipt system.

4. Ng (US Patent No. 6,405,175) discloses a shopping scouts web site for rewarding customer

referrals on product and price information with rewards scaled by the number of shoppers using

the information.

5. Hess et al. (US Patent No. 6,415,320) discloses an information presentation and management

in an online trading environment.

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4013. The examiner can normally be reached on 8Am-4:30Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones, can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sana Al-Hashemi
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